



RM2017-12  
WETA Television • Classical WETA 90.9 FM  
Public Broadcasting for Greater Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED

2017 SEP 12 P 2:35

September 7, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Docket No. RM2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of local public broadcasting station WETA and the many viewers, listeners and members in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., area who count on us as an integral part of their daily lives. As a non-profit organization, WETA is heavily reliant on the U.S. Mail to raise funds and communicate with our donors, viewers and listeners.

We are baffled by the sudden proposal to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates above the CPI rate. It defies reason and contradicts the very important rationale for granting nonprofits a discounted rate.

As a practical matter, injecting unanticipated increases such as those proposed by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, in turn, a reduction in our ability to serve our viewers, listeners, members and wider community.

Be it the beautiful music and opera on Classical WETA or beloved programs on WETA TV such as the *PBS NewsHour*, *Nature*, *NOVA*, *Frontline*, wonderful documentaries by Ken Burns or the lineup of commercial-free educational children's programs, member support helps WETA to produce and broadcast programs that educate, inspire, and entertain. A significant portion of those funds is raised through the U.S. Mail system, and our ability to raise those funds would be compromised through higher postal rates. If mail expenses go up, our ability to deliver programs and services to our community decreases.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rate. We see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofit organizations using the mail. Nonprofit organizations are the least able to absorb such increases as they work in areas that benefit our society as a whole.

Your review and consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheryl Lahti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheryl" and last name "Lahti" clearly distinguishable.

Sheryl Lahti  
Executive Director  
Development Operations